

KISSINGER BACKED IN HOUSE DISPUTE

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Foreign Service Officers

Oppose Testimony by Aides

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—

More than 200 middle-rank Foreign Service officers have signed a letter supporting Secretary of State Kissinger in his refusal to allow the House Select Intelligence Committee to interrogate the officers on internal policy disputes.

The letter, to Representative Otis G. Pike, a New York Democrat and chairman of the committee declared that his demand for testimony from lower-rank officers on policy options would damage the Foreign Service.

But John D. Hemenway, president of the American Foreign Service Association, said today that he objected to the letter defending Mr. Kissinger. He said he would attempt to have the association adopt an alternate course at a membership meeting tomorrow.

Since Oct. 15, Mr. Kissinger has been under subpoena by the House committee to supply a memorandum on the 1974 Cyprus crisis written by Thomas D. Boyatt and dissenting from Administration policy.

Headed Cyprus Affairs

Mr. Boyatt was director of Cyprus affairs, handling both the Greek and Turkish aspects of the crisis, at the time he wrote his dissent. He is awaiting reassignment after attending a senior seminar. Mr. Boyatt also served as president of the Foreign Service Association until last July.

On instructions from Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Deputy Under Secretary for Management, Mr. Boyatt refused last month to testify before the Pike committee on the nature of his policy dissent. Testifying himself Sept. 25, Mr. Eagleburger said, "We must preserve the confidentiality of the decision-making process." (S Oct 7)

The subpoena on Mr. Kissinger was set with a deadline for compliance on Wednesday. Administration officials said they expected that Mr. Kissinger would renew his refusal to comply in a letter to Mr. Pike.

The letter signed the Foreign Service officers was drafted last Thursday in the office of Charles W. Bray 3d, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Mr. Bray was the department spokesman under former Secretary of State William P. Rogers and was known among colleagues as being critical of Mr. Kissinger.

The letter he helped draft fully supported the Kissinger position, however. On the issue of Mr. Boyatt's testifying it said:

"To insist that our colleague testify as you have required poses a sharp and, in some ways, anguishing dilemma for him and for the entire diplomatic service of the United States."

The letter went on to say:

"Many of us believe that the Foreign Service is just now—after 20 years—overcoming the legacy of that bitter question: 'Who lost China?' Some of us recall the fate of those of our colleagues who were swept up—and away—in the debate."

The letter concludes that testimony by lower-level officers on policy questions could "encourage the drafting of unexceptionable reports, bland to the point of uselessness." It says that the committee would do better to demand policy explanations from the senior officers who make policy.

Mr. Hemenway wrote to Mr. Pike saying that he saw no evidence that the intelligence committee was acting like the China policy critics of the late nineteen forties and that, in his opinion, the real issue was whether Foreign Service officers would obtain proper legislation on grievances. Mr. Pike was unavailable for comment on the letters.